

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116  
US APPLICATION NO. 09/581,377  
ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q80247

## **REMARKS**

### **General Remarks**

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present amendment is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner in the Office Action mailed June 9, 2004, and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of all claims under consideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 – 10, 12 – 38, 81 – 83, 102, 111 – 135 are pending in the application. Claims 11, 39 – 80, 84 – 101, 103 – 110 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 1 is currently amended and claims 116 – 135 are new claims.

### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The allowance of claims 32 – 38, 81-83, 102 and 111 – 115 is acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 8 – 31 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 1 has been rewritten to include the limitation of claim 11, and claim 11 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. In view of the foregoing, claim 1, as now rewritten, is deemed patentable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of claim 1 and its dependent claims 8 – 10 and 12 – 31 is respectfully requested.

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Claim 116 is a new independent claim corresponding to claim 1 and including the limitation of claim 8, which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 117 – 124 are new dependent claims depending directly and ultimately from claim 116 and including additional patentable subject matter.

Claim 125 is a new claim corresponding to claim 1 and including the limitation of claim 10, which was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 126 – 135 are new dependent claims depending directly and ultimately from claim 125 and including additional patentable subject matter.

In view of the foregoing, entry and allowance of claims 116 – 135 is respectfully requested.

#### Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1 – 7 and 104 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshida (U.S. 6,052,140). Claims 92 – 95 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takada et al. (U.S. 5,883,732). Claims 96-101 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takada et al. (U.S. 5,883,732) in view of Sasada et al. (U.S. 4,946,234).

Yoshida (U.S. 6,052,140) describes an image forming apparatus.

Takada et al. (U.S. 5,883,732) describes an optical scanner.

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Sasada et al. (U.S. 4,946,234) describes a light beam deflection scanning method and an apparatus therefor.

Claim 1 has been rewritten and now includes the limitation of claim 11, which is canceled. As noted above, claim 11 was indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 11 depends directly from claim 1. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw this rejection of claim 1 and its dependent claims 2 – 7.

Claims 92 – 101 and 104 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, thereby obviating the rejection of these claims.

#### Conclusion and Request for Interview

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in order. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

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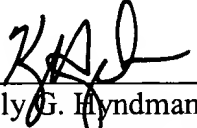
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